

**I CLAIM:**

1. A modular electronic musical keyboard instrument comprising:

5 a plurality of keyboard modules, each of which includes a module casing, a set of signal switches mounted on said module casing, and a set of finger keys mounted operably on said module casing and associated operably and respectively with said signal switches for controlling activation and deactivation of said signal  
10 switches;

a signal bus including a plurality of signal lines, each of which is connected electrically to a corresponding one of said signal switches, said signal bus being divided into a plurality of bus sections, each  
15 of which is disposed in said module casing of a respective one of said keyboard modules;

a plurality of connecting devices, each of which connects electrically said bus sections of a corresponding adjacent pair of said keyboard modules  
20 when said module casings of said keyboard modules are disposed side by side to form an elongate keyboard body; and

a signal port connected electrically to said signal bus.

25 2. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising an encoder coupled electrically to said signal port and responsive

to activation of said signal switches that are connected to said encoder via said signal bus and said signal port so as to generate a corresponding command.

3. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising a processor coupled electrically to said encoder and responsive to the command issued by said encoder so as to generate a corresponding audio signal output.

4. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said processor includes a sound effect generator coupled electrically to said encoder, and an amplifier coupled electrically to said sound effect generator.

5. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 4, further comprising a speaker coupled to said amplifier for reproducing the audio signal output of said processor.

6. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said signal port, said encoder, said processor, and said speaker are disposed in said module casing of one of said keyboard modules.

7. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said module casings of each said adjacent pair of said keyboard modules of said elongate keyboard body have confronting lateral walls, said module casing of a first one of said keyboard modules in each said adjacent pair further having a top

wall formed with a contact receiving recess that opens to said lateral wall thereof,

said module casing of a second one of said keyboard modules in each said adjacent pair being formed with a contact support plate that extends removably into said contact receiving recess of said module casing of said first one of said keyboard modules,

each of said connecting devices including a set of first electrical contacts mounted in said contact receiving recess, and a set of second electrical contacts mounted on said contact support plate for connecting electrically and respectively with said first electrical contacts when said contact support plate is extended into said contact receiving recess.

8. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 7, wherein each of said connecting devices further includes a press member mounted movably on said top wall of said module casing of said first one of said keyboard modules in the corresponding adjacent pair of said keyboard modules adjacent to said contact receiving recess,

said press member being movable to a pressing position, where said press member presses said contact support plate downward to ensure electrical connection between said first and second electrical contacts.

9. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said finger keys of each

of said keyboard modules include seven monotone keys and five halftone keys.

10. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said module casing of each of said keyboard modules has a front portion, a rear portion that is raised relative to said front portion, and a bottom wall, said finger keys being disposed on said front portion of said module casing,

said module casings of said keyboard modules being capable of being stacked one on top of the other such that said bottom wall of said module casing of an upper one of said keyboard modules is supported on top of said rear portion of said module casing of a lower one of said keyboard modules, thereby forming a stack,

said modular electronic musical keyboard instrument further comprising a set of tie rods, each of which has opposite ends connected removably to a corresponding pair of said keyboard modules in said stack.

11. The modular electronic keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said module casing of said upper one of said keyboard modules further has a support member connected foldably to said bottom wall thereof and foldable away from said bottom wall from a folded position to an unfolded position where said support member stands on top of said front portion of said module casing of said lower one of said keyboard modules in said stack.

12. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said bottom wall of said module casing of said upper one of said keyboard modules is formed with a receiving groove for receiving said support member when said support member is at the folded position.

13. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said support member includes a plate body connected pivotally to said bottom wall of said module casing of said upper one of said keyboard modules.

14. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said module casing of each of said keyboard modules has front and rear walls, at least one of which is formed with a rod engaging hole, said opposite ends of each of said tie rods extending removably into said rod engaging holes in said corresponding pair of said keyboard modules in said stack.

15. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a set of tie rods, each of which has opposite ends connected removably to a corresponding pair of said keyboard modules of said elongate keyboard body.

16. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said module casing of each of said keyboard modules has front and rear walls,

at least one of which is formed with a rod engaging hole,  
said opposite ends of each of said tie rods extending  
removably into said rod engaging holes in said  
corresponding pair of said keyboard modules of said  
5 keyboard body.

17. The modular electronic musical keyboard instrument  
as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said module casings of  
each said adjacent pair of said keyboard modules of said  
elongate keyboard body have confronting lateral walls,

10 each of said connecting devices including a set of  
first electrical contacts mounted on said lateral wall  
of said module casing of a first one of said keyboard  
modules in the corresponding adjacent pair, and a set  
of second electrical contacts mounted on said lateral  
15 wall of said module casing of a second one of said keyboard  
modules in the corresponding adjacent pair for  
connecting electrically and respectively with said  
first electrical contacts when said elongate keyboard  
body is formed.